6. Karnataka
7. Kerala
8. Madhya Pradesh
9. Maharashtra
10. Orissa
11. Pondicherry
12. Punjab
13. Tamil Nadu

(b) and (c) The Board of Executive Directors of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) had approved a loan of US$105.51 million for the Hydrology Project-ll.

(d) The project has been accepted by the World Bank on usual terms of World Bank funding, the main points being the following:

i. The loan is subject to the agreement with World Bank on general conditions, the loan, execution of the project and financial covenants for the project.

ii. The Project will be executed over a period of six years.

iii. The Borrower shall repay the principal amount of the loan in accordance with the loan agreement.

Study on water-scarce regions

2959. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study/survey to assess the water-scarce regions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to formulate a comprehensive policy to provide water to water-scarce regions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) specific studies/surveys with the objective to assess the water-scarce regions in the country has not been conducted. However, during the

course of drought area studies and studies related to National Perspective Plan (NPP), water deficit basins have been identified.

The National Water Policy, 2002 emphasizes the need to make water available to water short areas. It states "water should be made available to water short areas by transfer from other areas including transfers from one river basin to another, based on a national perspective, after taking into account the requirements of the areas/basins"

Fall in ground water level

†2960. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been constant fall in ground water level in various States during the last two decades and as a result of which a grave situation has arisen regarding the resources providing safe water for drinking, irrigation and cultivation;

(b) whether the likelihood of drought in some States due to constant falling of water level has arisen;

(c) whether Government have formulated a long term plan till now to tackle the situation; and

(d) whether Government have carried out any research work regarding ground water resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) A long-term analysis fo ground water levels by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, during the last two decades (1985-2004) shows significant decline (more than 20 cm/ year) in ground water levels in parts of 274 districts in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. This has affected adversely the availability of water for drinking, irrigation and cultivation purposes.

(d) 'Water' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to formulate plans for augmenting water

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.